

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A storage device comprising:
 - detecting unit adapted to detect whether the storage device has been connected to an information processing apparatus; and
 - selecting unit adapted to select a first operating mode, in which the storage device operates as a storage device dedicated to the information processing apparatus, if the storage device has been connected to the information processing apparatus, and selecting a second operating mode, in which the storage device operates as a file server, if the storage device has not been connected to the information processing apparatus.
- 15 2. The device according to claim 1, further comprising communication unit adapted to enable communication with an access point in a network;
 - wherein said communication unit is disabled if the first operating mode has been selected.
- 20 3. The device according to claim 1, wherein said selecting unit performs the selection of the first and second operating modes automatically based upon result of detection by said detecting unit.
4. The device according to claim 3, wherein said first operating mode has a priority higher than that of the second operating mode, and in a case where said detecting unit has detected connection to the

information processing apparatus, the storage device operates in the first operating mode even in an environment in which the storage device is capable of operating in the second operating mode.

5 5. A processing method in a storage device, comprising the steps of:

detecting whether the storage device has been connected to an information processing apparatus; and selecting a first operating mode, in which the

10 storage device operates as a storage device dedicated to the information processing apparatus, if the storage device has been connected to the information processing apparatus, and selecting a second operating mode, in which the storage device operates as a file server, if the storage device has not been connected to the information processing apparatus.

15 6. The method according to claim 5, wherein the information processing apparatus includes communication unit adapted to enable communication 20 with an access point in a network and wherein said communication unit is disabled if the first operating mode has been selected.

7. A storage device comprising:

receiving unit adapted to receive control 25 information that has been transmitted from an information processing apparatus; and selecting unit adapted to select a first

operating mode in which the storage device operates as
a storage device dedicated to the information
processing apparatus, or a second operating mode in
which the storage device operates as a file server, in
5 accordance with the control information.

8. The device according to claim 7, further
comprising communication unit adapted to enable
communication with an access point in a network;
wherein said communication unit is disabled if
10 the first operating mode has been selected.

9. A processing method in a storage device,
comprising the steps of:

receiving control information that has been
transmitted from an information processing apparatus;
15 and

selecting a first operating mode in which the
storage device operates as a storage device dedicated
to the information processing apparatus, or a second
operating mode in which the storage device operates as
20 a file server, in accordance with the control
information.

10. The method according to claim 9, wherein the
information processing apparatus includes
communication unit adapted to enable communication
25 with an access point in a network and
wherein said communication unit is disabled if
the first operating mode has been selected.